

## **ARCHITECTURE & CONSTRUCTION DEFINITIONS 5:**

- ANCHOR BOLT:** A steel bolt usually fixed in a building structure with its threaded portion projecting; used to secure frameworks, timbers, machinery bases, etc.
- ASPHALT ROOFING PAPER:** An asphalt coated paper that is applied to the roofing deck prior to the installation of roofing material.
- BAR JOIST:** An open-web steel joist consisting of a single bar, bent in a zigzag pattern, and welded at its points to upper and lower chords.
- BASEPLATE:** A metal plate on which a column rests.
- BATT INSULATION:** A flexible blanket-type thermal insulation, commonly used as insulation between studs or joist in frame construction. Sometimes has a vapor barrier on one side or is entirely enclosed in paper.
- BEAM:** A structural member whose prime function is to carry transverse loads, as a joist, girder, rafter, or purlin.
- BLOCKING:** Pieces of wood used to secure, join, or reinforce members, or to fill spaces between them.
- BRACING:** Structural elements installed to provide restraint or support (or both) to other members, so that the complete assembly forms a stable structure.
- BUILDING PAPER:** A durable paper, usually tyvek, installed over the building sheathing to provide weather protection and acts as a vapor barrier.
- CAULKING:** A resilient mastic compound, often having a silicone or rubber base, used to seal cracks, fill joints, prevent leakage, and/or provide water or fire proofing.
- CELLULOSE INSULATION:** A natural material, usually jute, flax, hemp, etc.; used for insulation purposes and is typically blown into the space.
- CONTROL JOINT:** A groove which is formed, sawed, or tooled in a concrete or masonry structure to regulate the location and amount of cracking and separation resulting from dimensional change.
- COPING:** A protective cap or cover of a wall or parapet.
- CROSS BRACING/X-BRACING:** Any system of bracing in which the diagonals intersect.
- DAMPPROOFING:** A treatment of concrete or masonry to retard or prevent the passage or absorption of water.
- DEAD LOAD:** The weight of a structure itself, including the weight of fixtures or equipment permanently attached to it.
- DOUBLE HEADER:** A header made of two pieces of lumber, fixed together by bolts or nails, to provide greater strength than a single piece. (Three pieces is a triple header)
- DYNAMIC LOAD:** Any load which is nonstatic, such as a wind load or a moving live load.
- EXPANSION JOINT:** A joint or gap between adjacent parts of a building, structure, or concrete work which permits their relative movement due to temperature changes without rupture or damage.
- EIFS:** Exterior Insulation Finishing System, an outer finishing system, usually of a foam base material, that provides protection against weather and provides additional thermal value.
- FAÇADE:** The exterior face of a building.
- FAUX:** A fake or imitation material made to resemble the original material. Examples: Painting techniques to give the appearance of marble, synthetic or manufactured brick and stone made to look like the real brick or stone, but weighs and cost less.
- FINISH FLOOR:** The floor, usually laid over a subfloor, which provides the complete floor surface.
- FIRE STOPPING:** In a concealed, hollow construction, a material or member which fills or seals the open construction to prevent or retard the spread of fire.

**FIRE TREATED WOOD:** Lumber or plywood which has been impregnated, under pressure, with minerals salts, that in the event of fire, the burning wood and salts emit noncombustible gases and water vapor instead of the usual flammable vapors.

**FLAME SPREAD RATING:** A numerical designation, applied to building materials, which is a comparative measure of the ability of the material to resist flaming combustion over its surface.

**FLOOR FRAMING:** Framing consisting of common floor joists, cross bridging, and other members which provide support for flooring.

**FOOTING:** The portion of the foundation of a structure which transmits loads directly to the soil.

**FOUNDATION:** Any part of a structure that serves to transmit the load to the earth or rock, usually below ground level.

**FRAMING ANCHOR:** A metal device used in light wood-frame construction for joining studs, joists, rafters, etc.

**FURRING:** Spacers such as wood or metal which are fastened to the joists, studs, walls, or ceilings of a building so that the finish surface may be leveled.

**GAUGE/GAGE:** The thickness of sheet metal or metal studs.

**GIRDER:** A large or principal beam of steel, reinforced concrete, or timber, used to support concentrated loads at isolated points along its length.

**GLUE LAMINATED TIMBER:** A manufactured product consisting of four or more wood layers bonded together with adhesive.

**GROUT:** Mortar containing a considerable amount of water so that it has the consistency of a viscous liquid, permitting it to be poured or pumped into joints, spaces, and cracks within masonry walls and floors, between pieces of floor or wall tile.

**HEADER:** A framing member which crosses and supports the ends of joists, rafters, etc. transferring the weight of the latter o parallel joists, rafters, etc.

**JOIST:** One of a series of parallel beams of timber, reinforced concrete, or steel used to support floor and ceiling loads, and supported in turn by larger beams, girders, or bearing walls.

**LAMINATED WOOD:** Board or timber built up of piles which are joined together by gluing; usually the grain of all plies is parallel.

**LINTEL:** A horizontal structural member over an opening which carries the weight of the wall above it, usually of steel, stone, or wood.

**LIVE LOAD:** The moving or movable external load on a structure; includes the weight of furnishings of a building, of the people, of the equipment, etc., but does not include wind load.

**LOAD:** A force, or system of forces, carried by a structure, or part of the structure.

**LOUVER:** An assembly of sloping, overlapping blades or slats; may be fixed or adjustable; designed to admit air and/or light in varying degrees and to exclude rain and snow.

**MEMBRANE:** A weather-resistant flexible or semi-flexible covering consisting of alternate layers of felt and bitumen.

**MORTAR:** A plastic mixture of cementitious materials with water and a fine aggregate that is troweled in place.

**PLATE:** A horizontal board connecting and terminating posts, joists, rafters, etc.

**PLYWOOD:** Structural wood made of three or more layers of veneer, joined with glue.

**PRESSURE TREATED WOOD:** Lumber or plywood which has been impregnated, under pressure, with chemicals that treat the wood against weather and rot.

**PSF:** Pounds per Square Foot

**PSI:** Pounds per Square Inch

**PURLIN:** A piece of lumber laid horizontally on the principle rafters on which the roof covering is laid.

**QUOIN:** A hard stone or brick used, with similar ones, to reinforce an external corner or edge of a wall; often distinguished decoratively from adjacent masonry.

**RAFTER:** One of a series of inclined members to which a roof covering is fixed.

**RIDGE BEAM:** A beam at the upper ends of the rafters, below the ridge of a roof.

**RIDGEBOARD:** A longitudinal member at the apex of a roof which supports the upper ends of the rafters.

**RIGID INSULATION:** A non-flexible foam board insulation used along foundation walls and under floor slabs.

**ROOF DECK:** The structural material between the roof supports used as a base for the roof covering system; may be metal, concrete, wood, gypsum, or a combination of these.

**ROOF DECKING:** Prefabricated units, usually in the form of long structural panels, which span the roof framing system and form a roof deck.

**ROOF DRAIN:** A drain designed to receive water collecting on the surface of a roof and to discharge it into a leader or a downspout.

**ROOF INSULATION:** Insulation that is either laid or blown in to increase the thermal value of the structure. Insulation is either placed along the bottom chord of the roof trusses or installed between rafters where a finished space is provided.

**ROOF SHEATHING:** The boards or sheet material, usually plywood, fastened to the roof rafters, onto which the roofing covering is laid.

**SCISSORS TRUSS:** A type of truss used to support a pitched roof where the ties cross each other and are connected to the opposite rafters at an intermediate point along their length.

**SHEATHING:** The covering placed over exterior studding or rafters of a building; provides the base for the application of wall or roof cladding.

**SILL PLATE:** A horizontal timber, at the bottom of the frame of a wood structure, which rests on the foundation.

**SOUNDPROOFING:** The elements of construction and the design features of a building which make it relatively impervious to sound transmission from one room to another or from outside the building to the inside.

**STC:** Sound Transmission Class

**STANDING SEAM:** Typically seen in metal roofing, a type of seam between adjacent sheets of material, made by turning up the edges to two adjacent sheets and then folding them over.

**SUBFLOORING:** A rough floor, laid on joists, which serves as a base for the finished floor.

**T&G:** Tongue and Grooved

**TOP PLATE:** The horizontal member of a frame building to which the rafters are fastened.  
Also the horizontal member at the top of the partition studs.

**TRUSS:** A structure composed of a combination of members, usually in some triangular arrangement so as to constitute a rigid framework.

**VAPOR BARRIER:** A moisture-impervious layer or coating which prevents the passage of moisture or vapor into a material or structure.

**WATERPROOFING:** A material, usually a membrane or applied compound, used to make a surface impervious to water.

**WEB JOIST:** A truss where the members join at the top and bottom chords creating an open web area where mechanical, plumbing, and electrical lines can be run.

**WIDE FLANGE BEAM:** A structural beam of rolled steel or concrete having the shape whose cross section resembles the letter H.